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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 21 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 15 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 3.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 50 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 873 billion ton-miles, 5.5 percent above the comparable period of last year. With two weeks remaining in 1979, the total has already exceeded the high for any previous year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 15 totaled 467,551 cars, 1.3 percent above 1978, but 0.9 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 4.5 percent in the South, and 3.8 percent in the West, but down 4.8 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 13 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 17,984 cars, or 18.9 percent and grain increased 4,752 cars, or 17.4 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 8 totaled 37,025 cars, down 1.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 64,948 trailers and/or containers, 0.5 percent higher than last.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 1,761,892 cars, 1.4 percent higher than last year, and 3,108,638 trailers and/or containers, up 3.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/15.[1]

	Loadings in Week ended December 15, 1979	Change from Corresponding Week 1978			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,038	I	4,752	17.4	D	2,989	8.5
Other farm products	5,052	D	1,323	20.8	D	1,161	18.7
Metallic ores	32,193	I	2,315	7.7	I	13	0.0
Coal	113,281	I	17,984	18.9	I	3,942	3.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,809	D	1,528	9.4	D	19	0.1
Nonmetallic minerals	14,348	I	602	4.4	I	334	2.4
Grain mill products	18,242	D	1,079	5.6	D	949	4.9
Food and kindred products	18,857	D	365	1.9	D	533	2.7
Primary forest products	21,446	I	550	2.6	I	85	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,207	D	2,008	16.4	I	144	1.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,459	I	866	4.2	D	629	2.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,252	I	1,315	4.9	D	223	0.8
Petroleum products	6,621	D	307	4.4	I	170	2.6
Stone, clay and glass products	16,626	D	1,301	7.3	D	470	2.7
Coke	5,352	D	1,823	25.4	D	495	8.5
Metals and products	16,537	D	3,508	17.5	D	614	3.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,663	D	4,778	18.8	D	984	4.5
Waste and scrap materials	13,548	D	1,245	8.4	I	2	0.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,685	I	14	0.1	I	483	4.0
All other carloads	45,089	D	3,059	6.4	D	565	1.2
LCL traffic	246	D	258	51.2	D	26	9.6
Total Cars Loaded	467,551	I	5,816	1.3	D	4,484	0.9
Corresponding week of 1978	461,735						

	1979	1978	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	23,114,904	22,557,151	I	2.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
49 weeks cumulative	855.0	809.9	I	5.6
Week ended December 15	17.8	17.2	I	3.4
50 weeks cumulative	872.8	827.1	I	5.5

[1] The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

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